

a3
4. (Amended) The bearing system defined in claim 2 in which the bracket is composed of an elastomeric material.

a4
10. (Amended) A bearing system for use with a motor having a rotor shaft and a rotor rotating within an opening through a stator, comprising a bearing bracket comprising a receptacle surrounding a bearing and supporting the bearing in fixed relation to the bracket, wherein the bracket is adapted to be mounted on the motor such that the opening in the bearing is disposed in the vicinity of an axis of the rotor shaft, and wherein the bracket is sufficiently flexible that the rotor shaft can deflect the bracket so that the bearing moves into alignment with an axis of the rotating shaft but the bracket is sufficiently rigid that the rotor is maintained in spaced relation from the stator during operation of the motor and wherein the bracket is provided with two posts and adapted to interlock with complimentary posts on a second bracket.

11. (Amended) A motor having a rotor shaft and a rotor rotating within an opening through a stator, having a bearing system comprising
one or more bearings each comprising an opening having at least one bearing surface, for maintaining a radial alignment of the rotor shaft, and
one or more bearing brackets each comprising a receptacle surrounding the bearing and supporting the bearing in fixed relation,
wherein the brackets are adapted to be mounted on the motor such that the openings in the bearings are disposed on opposite ends of the stator in the vicinity of an axis of the rotor shaft, and wherein the brackets, at least a portion of said brackets being composed of an elastomeric material, are sufficiently flexible that the rotor shaft can deflect the brackets so that the bearings move into alignment with an axis of the rotating shaft but the brackets are sufficiently rigid that the rotor is maintained in spaced relation from the stator during operation of the motor.

a5
14. (Amended) The motor defined in claim 12 in which the brackets are composed of an elastomeric material.

*a6
cont.*
19. (Amended) A motor having a rotor shaft and a rotor rotating within an opening through a stator, having a bearing system comprising
one or more bearings each comprising an opening having at least one bearing surface, for maintaining a radial alignment of the rotor shaft, and
one or more bearing brackets each comprising a receptacle surrounding the bearing and supporting the bearing in fixed relation,

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wherein the brackets are adapted to be mounted on the motor such that the openings in the bearings are disposed on opposite ends of the stator in the vicinity of an axis of the rotor shaft, and wherein the brackets, at least a portion of said brackets, are sufficiently flexible that the rotor shaft can deflect the brackets so that the bearings move into alignment with an axis of the rotating shaft but the brackets are sufficiently rigid that the rotor is maintained in spaced relation from the stator during operation of the motor a first bracket is provided with at least one ribbed post and a second bracket is provided with at least one ribbed socket complimentary to the post, the post being adapted to be secured in the socket by interlocking between ribs of the post and ribs of the socket.

20. (Amended) A motor having a rotor shaft and a rotor rotating within an opening through a stator, having a bearing system comprising
one or more bearings each comprising an opening having at least one bearing surface, for maintaining a radial alignment of the rotor shaft, and
one or more bearing brackets each comprising a receptacle surrounding the bearing and supporting the bearing in fixed relation,

wherein the brackets are adapted to be mounted on the motor such that the openings in the bearings are disposed on opposite ends of the stator in the vicinity of an axis of the rotor shaft, and wherein the brackets are sufficiently flexible that the rotor shaft can deflect the brackets so that the bearings move into alignment with an axis of the rotating shaft but the brackets are sufficiently rigid that the rotor is maintained in spaced relation from the stator during operation of the motor in which each bracket is provided with two posts and adapted to interlock with complimentary posts on a second bracket.

REMARKS

Specification

The Abstract has been amended in line 1, to remove the use of the term "comprising" in accordance with MPEP § 608.01(b). The abstract is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Claims 10, 11 and 20 have been amended to correct for the informalities indicated by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action dated December 20, 2001. The word "and" has been deleted from claims 10 and 20 and a ":" has been added